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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* E/CN.6/2005/1.

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Statement

F.E.F.A.F - the EU umbrella NGO of national and regional associations representing stay-at-home Parents and Carers, calls on national Governments and the United Nations, respectively, to implement Strategic Objective H3 of the Beijing agreement in national, regional and international statistical services and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies.

The unremunerated work carried out within the family - education, supervision and care of children and elderly and/or disabled relatives - still mainly undertaken by women, has an economic value and is therefore essential to society and economy. This work must be undertaken as a matter of free choice; and neither those who undertake such work nor their families should be penalized in any way. Furthermore, such work should be facilitated so that women - and men - can freely choose their preferred life path.

There can be no clear planning or cost-benefit analysis for the care of children, the elderly and disabled without **reliable data** on **all types** of care: community-based care, institutional care **AND** unremunerated family-based work carried out within the family.

Where the contribution of unremunerated work is recognised, structured methods for rewarding such work - such as personal social welfare rights awarded equally to all those who provide the same service without or with remuneration - can be developed.

Therefore F.E.F.A.F. requests

the implementation of § 11 and 14 from CEDAW and 165g, 206 (f, g, o, p) and 209 from PFA Beijing,

- *particularly collecting data on*

  * *the economic value of unremunerated family-based work for the benefit of dependents*

  * *the impact of national and community policies on the basic unit of the family and all its members, notably in the domain of the elimination of discrimination, the struggle against domestic violence, the risk of poverty of female heads of households, pension policies for unremunerated parents and carers*

- *Methods of data collection on unremunerated work should be internationalised and include:*

  * *headings in the census and all relevant statistics for unremunerated work and workers, unremunerated agricultural and food production; unremunerated childcare, eldercare and care of the disabled; unremunerated community and NGOs support work*

  * *parallel GDP accounts for unremunerated agricultural, family caring and voluntary work*

  * *gender- and age-disaggregated information on unremunerated workers*